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Borough of Rowley Regis



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1953

FRANK ASKER, Medical Officer of Health.

ALEC LONGFELLOW, Chief Sanitary Inspector

Borough of Rowley Regis



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Public Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Old Hill, Staffs.

September, 1954.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors for the
Borough of Rowley Regis.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1953, in which is incorporated the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. The report is drawn up in accordance with the instructions laid down in the Ministry of Health Circular 1/54 dated the 12th January, 1954.

The incidence of Infectious Disease was higher than in the previous year, 681 cases as compared with 577 in 1952, most of these were measles (452 cases) and Whooping Cough (181 cases). There was only one case of Diphtheria and this occurred in a child who had not been previously immunised, and there were no cases of Poliomyelitis.

From a study of the Vital Statistics it will be seen that like in 1952 there was a fall in the Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates. The Birth Rate was 12.42 per 1,000 population (13.84 in 1952), the Death Rate was 7.97 per 1,000 population (9.44 in 1952), and the Infant Mortality Rate was 24.54 per 1,000 live births (26.58 in 1952), again the lowest ever recorded. It is of interest to note that in 1913 the Infant Mortality Rate was 116.1 and in 1915 reached the figure of 134.93. Since then there has been a steady and progressive decline.

During the year the routine work of the department was carried out satisfactorily, strict supervision was maintained over premises concerned with the preparation and sale of food, and as a result of the improvement in the house building programme it was possible to commence dealing with houses unfit for human habitation. 32 houses were represented as being unfit for habitation and 19 demolition orders and 1 closing order were made.


I once again take this opportunity of thanking my staff for the way they have carried out their duties during the year, and to the Members of the Council I express my gratitude for their help, consideration and co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK ASKER,

Medical Officer of Health.



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CONSTITUTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

as at 31st December, 1953

Chairman: Alderman Hancock, J.P.

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen Deeley, J.P., Norwood, Woodward; Councillors Adams, J., Forrest, Millington, Pritchard (Mrs.), Thorne, Wakeman, E., Wakeman, V. W., Walker and Willetts.

MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

on the

ROWLEY REGIS AREA HEALTH COMMITTEE

Aldermen Deeley, J.P., Smith; Councillors Pritchard (Mrs. P.), Walker and Westwood.

* Alderman Pennington, J.P., C.A., and Councillor A. J. Barker.

**Note: These members were appointed by the Staffordshire County Council.*

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :—

FRANK ASKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :—

ALEC LONGFELLOW, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.,
Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Meat and Food Inspector's
Certificate, Smoke Inspector's Certificate, Testamur of the
Institute of Public Cleansing, Honours in Plumbing and
Sanitary Science of the City and Guilds of London Institute.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :—

WILLIAM WOOLDRIDGE, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

LEONARD COOMBES, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate,
Meat and Foods Inspector's Certificate, and Smoke Inspec-
tor's Certificate.

LASHFORD R. TURBIN, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate,
and Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.

Junior Assistant : Michael S. Harrison.

Clerks : Miss D. Morgan, Chief Clerk.

Miss T. Shaw

Miss M. Patrick

Miss B. Rawlings.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's Estimate mid-year 1953)	49,180
Population (Census 1951)	49,409
Number of inhabited houses (at 31st December, 1953, according to the Rate Books)	14,425
Rateable Value (at 31st December, 1953)	£199,790
Product of a Penny Rate (at 31st March, 1953) ...	£771.14.1
Estimated product of a Penny Rate (at 31st December, 1953)	£780

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Although parts of the Tividale and Rowley Regis Wards are agricultural in character, the district is essentially an industrial one. The manufacture of iron goods, such as nails, rivets, tubes, shovels, chains and anchors, hollow-ware, electrical fittings, being amongst the chief industries. A hard basaltic rock known as 'Rowley Rag' is quarried from the hills and is largely used for paving and channelling purposes. There is no coal mining done in the district now, though the presence of pit mounds and disused pit shafts bear testimony to the fact that coal mining was once an important industry in the Borough.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS:

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	304	293	597
Illegitimate	...	...	6	8	14
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	...	310	301	611
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

* Birth Rate per 1,000 population : 12.42.

STILL BIRTHS: Male 12 Female 10 Total 22.

Rate per 1,000 population : 0.44

Rate per 1,000 live and still births : 34.75

DEATHS :

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	211	181	392
* Death Rate per 1,000 population :		7.97.	
Deaths from puerperal causes :		1.	
Rate per 1,000 live and still births :		1.57.	
Deaths of infants under one year of age :			
All Infants, 15; Legitimate 15; Illegitimate, Nil.			
Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births :		24.54.	
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000			
legitimate live births :		25.12	
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000			
illegitimate live births :			Nil.
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age :			
All infants, 14; Legitimate, 14; Illegitimate, Nil.			

Deaths from :—

Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—
Meningococcal infection	...	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...		2

BIRTHS

The total live births accredited to Rowley Regis during the year under review were 611, a decrease of 66 on the preceding year. The birth rate for the area was 12.42, which figure is lower than that for the whole of the country (viz., 15.5). Of these 611 births, 14 were illegitimate (6 male and 8 female).

* *It will be apparent that the Birth and Death Rate of any area is bound to be influenced by the age and sex distribution of the population, so that in order that truer comparisons can be made between one area and another the actual Birth and Death Rates are multiplied by a number called the "Comparability Factor," the result being known as the Corrected Birth or Death Rate. These "Comparability Factors" are supplied by the Registrar General and are based on the age and sex distribution of the population as shown by the census. For Rowley Regis they are as follows:—Comparability Factor for births 0.94 and for deaths 1.22, and the corrected Birth Rate is 11.6748 per 1,000 population, and the corrected Death Rate is 9.7234 per 1,000 population.*

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH IN THIS AREA

<i>Cause of Death</i>					<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	211	181	392
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	..	...	...	...	6	—	6
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	..	...	—	2	2
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	..	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	8	8	16
Malignant neoplasm, Lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	7	2	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	..	...	...	—	14	14
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	..	...	...	—	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	19	15	34
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Diabetes	...	...	..	...	2	2	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	25	29	54
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	20	13	33
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	7	6	13
Other Heart disease	...	...	...	...	28	39	67
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	7	1	8
Influenza	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	16	3	19
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	17	7	24
Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	8	—	8
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	9	1	10
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	..	...	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	12	16	28
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
Suicide	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE DEATH RATE

392 deaths were recorded in Rowley Regis in 1953. The general death rate showed a decrease, viz., 7.97 as compared with 9.44 in 1952. The highest number of deaths were attributable to the following causes :—

Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	...	...	113
Cancer	...	...	76
Respiratory diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)	...	...	51
Diseases of the Nervous System	...	...	54

ABNORMAL SICKNESS OR MORTALITY

There has been no unusual excessive mortality during the year nor have the occupations or environment of the district had any demonstrably detrimental effect upon the public health.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological and pathological examination of clinical material, water, milk and foodstuffs, is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, which is under the direction of Lt.-Colonel R. N. Phease. Chemical analysis is carried out at the County Chemical Laboratory under the direction of A. Houlbrooke, Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C., County Analyst.

Ambulance Facilities.

Ambulances are provided by the County Council for the transport of infectious and non-infectious cases. The service is free and available at any hour of the day or night.

Hospital Facilities.

There are no hospitals sited in the Borough, so that the inhabitants have to use those situated in neighbouring areas. The chief ones used are the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge, the Guest Hospital, Dudley, and the City of Birmingham Hospitals.

Infectious Diseases.

The majority of cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to the Moxley Isolation Hospital, Wednesbury. No difficulty is experienced in removing cases.

Tuberculosis.

The care and treatment of Tuberculosis is the responsibility of Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. Clinics are held daily at Parson Street, Dudley. Sanatoria are situated at Groundslow, Prestwood, Kinver and Himley.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

School Clinics and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, etc., are provided by the County Council and are held at Mace Street Clinic, Carlyle Road Clinic, and Public Offices, Tividale.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

(a) *Maternal Mortality*. One maternal death occurred during the year.

(b) *Infantile Mortality*. 15 deaths were registered in children under 1 year, of which 14 occurred under the age of 4 weeks. The infantile mortality rate of 24.54 was lower than the figure for 1952, which was 26.58.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

- (i) The water is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and is satisfactory in both (a) quantity and (b) quality.

This water is supplied to the company in bulk from Birmingham, where the principal source of supply is obtained from the gathering ground of the rivers Elan and Claerwen in mid-Wales.

- (ii) There is a piped water supply throughout the district, except as follows :—

117-118, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.
Old Farm House, Weston Road, Tividale.
Bishton Fields, Oakham.

The following samples were taken by the Department :—

118, Corn-	Tap in kitchen	Chemical (2)	Satisfactory
greaves Road	from well	Bacteriological (2)	Satisfactory
Municipal	S.S.W.W. mains	Chemical (2)	Satisfactory
Buildings	supply	Bacteriological (2)	Satisfactory
Corngreaves	S.S.W.W. mains	Chemical	Satisfactory,
Hall	supply		except for
			excess iron
		Bacteriological	Satisfactory
Allotments,	From natural	Bacteriological	Unsatisfactory
High Haden	Spring (pro-		
Rd. Old Hill	posed water-		
	cross beds)		

- (iii) The water is not of an acidic nature and

- (iv) no action for contamination was necessary.

- (v) The public water mains supply direct, is as follows :

(a) Houses	...	...	14,271 (1952)
(b) Population	...	...	49,480 (1952)

By means of standpipes

(a) No. of standpipes	...	22
(b) No. of houses supplied		59

All the standpipes are in close proximity to the houses which are scheduled as unfit, and are being dealt with.

SWIMMING BATHS

Haden Hill Park

26 samples were taken as follows :—

1 Chemical	Satisfactory except no free chlorine.
25 Lovibond Comparator tests	23 satisfactory 2 unsatisfactory

Britannia Road Schools

2 samples were taken as follows :—

1 Chemical	Satisfactory but excessive free chlorine
1 Bacteriological	Satisfactory

The bath at Haden Hill is in the open air and the water is static. It is changed weekly.

Consideration has been given for the installation of chlorination, filtration and heating plant, but little progress has been made.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

All sewage passes down the Upper Stour Valley Main Sewage Board's sewers, and is dealt with on the land irrigation principle at Whittington, near Stourbridge, the effluent being discharged into the River Stour.

There is also a bacteriological system of sewage disposal at Tividale, the effluent being discharged into a tributary of the Tame.

New drainage work under the Local Building Byelaws is supervised by the Building Surveyor, but general repair work, in compliance with notices served, is done through the Sanitary Department.

The following work has been carried out in compliance with notices served :—

No. of yards of new drainage laid	...	294
New gullies fixed	... ..	9
New ventilation pipes fixed	... ..	11
New inspection chambers and covers	... ..	13
New intercepting traps	... ..	2
No. of drains unstopped by Council	... ..	303
Drains tested	... ..	12
Additional W.C.s provided	... ..	35
New bathrooms provided	... ..	7

All new plans are submitted to the Sanitary Inspectors for scrutiny, which is particularly helpful for both departments.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Little known pollution has occurred.

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

The cesspool emptyings are carried out by the Surveyor's Department with the gully emptying machine in conjunction with, and at the request of the Sanitary Department. They are situated as follows :—

CESSPOOLS

Premises—

Kendrick and Mole, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.
" Briardeme," Oakham.
" West Lea," Oakham.
" Greenfields," Oakham.
" Ruffmead," Oakham.
" Beulah," Oakham.
" Braeman," Oakham.
" Brookfields," Oakham.
" Golf Club," Oakham.
Wellfield House, Oakham.
" Beau Geste," Oakham.
" Sportman Inn," Station Road, Old Hill.
Road Surfacing Co., Portway, Oakham.
" Del-garda," New House, Darby's Hill, Oakham.
Marler Bros., Perry's Lake, Springfield.
" The Dell," Moor Lane, Rowley Regis.
Barnett's Brickworks, Tividale.
Smith, The Bungalow, High Haden, Old Hill.
Willetts' Garage, High Haden, Old Hill.
" Rufford," Moor Lane, Rowley Regis.
" Lyndale," Moor Lane, Rowley Regis.
The Bungalow, Spring Row, Church Road, Rowley Regis.
" The Spiers," Birmingham to Wolverhampton New Road.
" Pontymoile," Birmingham to Wolverhampton New Road.
" Windymoor," Darby's Hill, Oakham.
" Stanton," 8, Darby's Hill, Oakham.
B.S.A., rear of Vono Works.
Stiffs Concrete Factory, Perry's Lake, Springfield.
Edwin Richards Quarries Ltd., Perry's Lake, Springfield.
" Bungalow," Turner's Hill, Rowley Regis.
Duport Foundries Limited, Tividale (2).
Accles and Pollock's, Brades Road, Tividale.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Tipping still continues at one central depot—Powke Lane. The site is within a few yards of newly erected council houses. It is strictly controlled and no nuisance has occurred from vermin or flies of any description. A muldozer is employed.

On 26th February, a public inquiry was held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to consider the proposals of the Council to purchase a new site for refuse disposal tipping on the Birmingham New Wolverhampton Road.

The proposed tip covers $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres and has a capacity of about 130,000 cubic yards. The site is centrally situated for the Tividale area and will accommodate the refuse from about 6,000 to 7,000 houses for a good number of years.

The Ministry sanctioned the proposal in March, subject to the following conditions:—

1. Tipping must be controlled strictly in accordance with the Ministry's tipping precautions.
2. Water standing in the pit must be removed before tipping commences.

The purchase of the site was completed on 11th June, 1953.

Negotiations are still proceeding for the purchase of a large tip in Forge Lane, Cradley Heath, which should take all the refuse for the lower wards for a considerable number of years.

Owing to increases in wages the total collection and disposal costs are up by £94 10s. 11d. per 1,000 houses and premises. The total all in cost is £1,045 5s. 7d. per 1,000 houses, or £1 2s. $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. per house per year or fivepence per house per week.

The incentive bonus scheme is in operation and an almost weekly collection of refuse is made. An income of £202 8s. 9d. has been received from the collection and disposal of trade refuse.

The number of bins and pails in the Borough on 31st December, 1953.			The total number of trade refuse bins collected during year and charged at the rate of sixpence each.
Round	Bins	Pails	
1 ..	3,068	3	2,645
2 ..	3,075	—	1,710
3 ..	2,882	13	1,110
4 ...	2,956	1	294
5 ..	3,161	52	354
Totals ..	15,142	69	6,113

The supply of free dustbins to houses continues, the charge for which is made against the Public Health accounts. 1,251 bins have been replaced and 147 supplied to new houses built by the Corporation. The bins supplied to new houses are a charge against the Housing accounts.

REFUSE COLLECTION

1. Total refuse collected in tons :
 April 1st, 1952, to 31st March, 1953 : 10,547 tons 1 cwt. 0 qrs.
2. Population : Middle of 1952 (estimated)—49,480.
3. Area (statute acres) : 3,828.
4. Weight (in cwts.) per 1,000 population per day,
 365 days to year : 9.99.
5. Number of houses and premises : 14,271 (December, 1952).
6. Method of disposal : Controlled tipping.
7. Method of collection :—

Mechanical vehicles	Percentage of refuse collected
5	100%
8. Average length of haul : $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles.
9. Number of employees other than clerical :
 Collection—20. Disposal— $\frac{1}{2}$. Foreman—1.

The allocation of labour per vehicle is four loaders and one driver, but owing to the incentive bonus for refuse collection, each vehicle works with one driver and three loaders, thus making it possible for high wages to be paid over and above the J.I.C. standard.

CLEANSING SERVICES

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE

Table showing Costs for the Year ended 31st March, 1953

Item	Particulars	Collection (a) including (b) excluding loan charges, depreciation, revenue contributions to capital outlay and rents		Disposal (a) including (b) excluding loan charges, depreciation, revenue contributions to capital outlay and rents		Collection and Disposal (a) including (b) excluding loan charges, depreciation, revenue contributions to capital outlay and rents	
		(a) (3)	(b) (4)	(a) (5)	(b) (6)	(a) (7)	(b) (8)
(1)	(2)						
REVENUE ACCOUNT							
1.	Gross expenditure ...	£ s. d. 14145 14 11	£ s. d. 13135 14 11	£ s. d. 973 17 6	£ s. d. 931 19 6	£ s. d. 15119 12 5	£ s. d. 14067 14 5
2.	Gross income ...	167 3 0	167 3 0	35 5 9	35 5 9	202 8 9	202 8 9
3.	Net cost ...	13978 11 11	12968 11 11	938 11 9	896 13 9	14917 3 8	13865 5 8
UNIT COSTS							
4.	Gross expenditure ...	1 6 10	1 4 11	1 10	1 9	1 8 8	1 6 8
5.	Gross income per ton ...	4	4	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$4\frac{3}{4}$	$4\frac{3}{4}$
6.	Net cost per ton ...	1 6 6	1 4 7	1 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 8 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 6 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
7.	Net cost per 1,000 population	282 10 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	262 1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 19 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 2 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	301 9 7	280 4 5
8.	Net costs, per 1,000 houses or premises from which refuse is collected ...	979 10 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	908 14 9	65 15 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	62 16 8	1045 5 7	971 11 5

WASTE RECOVERY

The pig food is collected in the raw state and delivered to Messrs. Normansells, Tividale, for concentration. The house to house collection by individual containers has recently been uneconomical and was discontinued at the end of November. The collection from communal bins is being continued. All bins are fitted with removable foolproof lids and are easily cleansed inside and out. As galvanising turns black and dirty-looking the bins are painted annually in the attractive dual colours of bright green and cream.

		Pig Food collected by Electric Pony			Pig Food collected by Communal Bins			Waste Paper collected by Special Van		
		<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cw'ts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>
January	...	12	19	1	35	12	3	22	17	0
February	...	7	18	0	34	0	2	—	—	—
March	...	12	2	1	33	11	3	34	2	2
April	...	9	2	2	28	17	1	24	0	3
May	...	10	10	1	30	15	3	31	10	2
June	...	9	18	1	27	19	2	25	1	1
July	...	7	15	1	28	8	1	21	9	1
August	...	8	18	2	28	7	1	21	10	3
September	...	9	10	3	39	1	0	22	14	2
October	...	13	17	0	38	18	2	21	15	3
November	...	11	19	2	40	12	2	21	16	0
December	...	—	—	—	38	19	2	23	7	1
Totals	...	114	11	2	405	4	2	270	5	2

Total Weight Collected

		Tons cwts. qrs.			Value		
Paper	...	...	270	5 2	...	£1822	12 5
Pig Food	...	...	519	16 0	...	£1964	9 1
		790 1 2			£3787 1 6		

There is an increase of pig food collected by 109 tons 5 cwts. and a drop of paper collected by 29 tons 9 cwts. 2 qrs. as against last year.

STREET CLEANSING

As this is a Sanitary service the Council on 27th September rightly transferred the administration to the Public Health Department.

A close study of the work revealed that the considerable amount of litter and rubbish continually present in the streets was created by shopkeepers putting trade refuse into the street and leaving it there for the sweepers to pick up.

The matter was taken up with the Chamber of Trade and a considerable improvement was immediately effected. At the end of the year the work was in progress of reorganisation.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

This work was also transferred on 27th September. There are seven conveniences situated at various points in the Borough, some of which were in a poor state of repair. The many complaints of dirty conditions have been dealt with and at the end of the year the whole matter was under review.

RODENT CONTROL

About 10% of the sewer manholes were tested from 15th to 18th February, 1954.

Manholes test baited ...	100
Partial takes ...	Nil

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 15 Months ended 31st March, 1954

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including business and industrial)	
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's district	18	14,286	9	1,460	15,773
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1954, as a result of (a) notification, (b) survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, (c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose	(a) 7 (b) — (c) —	290 — —	— — —	20 72 —	317 72 —
III. Number of properties inspected (under II) which were found to be infested by rats	Minor 7 Major —	139 —	— —	33 —	179 —
IV. Number of properties inspected (under II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice	—	46	—	9	55
V. Number of infested properties (under III & IV) treated by the Local Authority	7	185	—	31	223
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4: (1) Treatment (2) Structural works (proofing)	— —	— —	— —	11 —	11 —

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

A.—THE NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR 1953

HOUSES

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Houses where no defects were found to exist ...	...	149
Houses where defects were found to exist ...	...	690
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES inspected during the year 1953 ...	...	896
UNDER HOUSING ACTS. Defective ...	...	57
REVISITS to houses for work in progress ...	...	4,670

SYNOPSIS OF OTHER INSPECTIONS MADE :—

Nature	No. of Individual premises visited.	Total Number of inspections made.
Shops visited under Shops Act	227	233
Drains ...	609	775
Urinals ...	57	57
Public Sanitary Conveniences	11	79
Slaughterhouses ...	16	496
Offensive Trades ...	1	5
Foodstores ...	510	2461
Stables and Animals ...	3	8
Piggeries ...	89	108
Factories ...	384	550
Bakehouses ...	17	169
Licenced Premises ...	154	345
Van Dwellings ...	6	7
Carbide Stores ...	7	7
Petroleum Stores ...	129	199
Smoke ...	118	136
Marine Store Dealers ...	10	1
Infectious Diseases ...	117	132
Pet Animals Act ...	7	8
Cinemas ...	4	22
Rag Flock Act ...	3	2
Wells and water supplies ...	14	23
Watercourses ...	42	56
Manure Pits and accumulations	71	88
Ice-cream stores ...	139	352
Canteens, Cafes & Restaurants	108	232
Cellulose Stores ...	12	48

Nature	No. of Individual premises visited.	Total Number of inspections made.
Private Schools	2	2
New coalhouses built ...	1	1
New piggeries built ...	2	2
Visits re Survey of Sanitary Accommodation ...	230	230

INTERVIEWS WITH OWNERS, BUILDERS, Etc. — 1,758

Nature of defects or nuisances discovered during 1953	No. of defects found	No. of defects remedied by		Total No. of defects remedied
		informal action	formal action	

The number of defects remedied may be shown more than those in "No. of defects found" column. This is owing to the carry over from the previous year.

DWELLING HOUSES :

Defective roof of coalhouses and verandahs	3	10	—	10
Defective roofs of dwelling houses	136	159	—	159
Defective chimneys	53	75	—	75
Defective brickwork and joints	55	37	—	37
Defective and dangerous walls	3	6	—	6
Defective or no spouting ...	72	80	—	80
Obstructed spouting ...	2	8	—	8
Defective yard paving ...	17	5	—	5
Insanitary structures	4	9	—	9
Accumulations	11	6	—	6
Dampness	6	4	—	4
Dirty dwelling houses ...	9	8	—	8
Dirty pantries and cellars ...	4	4	—	4
Dirty living rooms	22	17	—	17
Smoke nuisances	7	7	—	7
Dirty bedrooms	30	22	—	22
Dirty staircases	5	6	—	6
No bathroom accommodation.	5	8	—	8
Internal and external painting	7	7	—	7
Defective and dangerous ceiling	51	47	—	47
Defective wall plaster ...	79	71	—	71
Defective doors, casement and steps	33	35	—	35

Nature of defects or nuisances discovered during 1953	No. of defects found	No. of defects remedied by		Total No. of defects remedied
		informal action	formal action	
Defective firegrates and brick- work	28	23	—	23
Defective window frames and fasteners	66	64	—	64
Defective or no skirting boards	1	1	—	1
Defective sash cords	58	112	—	112
Insufficient coalhouse accom- modation	2	5	—	5
Insufficient washing facilities...	1	—	—	—
Insufficient light and ventilation	2	—	—	—
Insufficient ventilation under floors	1	1	—	1
Defective and dangerous floors	16	26	—	26
Defective and dangerous houses	1	1	—	1
Dirty floors	—	2	—	2
Defective staircase	4	3	—	3
Defective or no handrail	—	1	—	1
Fixed windows	2	—	—	—
Defective snow boards	—	1	—	1
No pantry accommodation	2	2	—	2
Defective hot water system and storage tanks	3	3	—	3
Dirty beds, bedding and persons	7	5	—	5
Dangerous and dilapidated outbuildings	7	5	—	5
Verminous houses (Rodents)...	6	8	—	8
Verminous houses (Beetles, etc.)	8	10	—	10
Verminous houses (Bugs)	2	—	—	—
WASHHOUSES				
Defective roofs	45	70	—	70
Defective chimneys	17	18	—	18
Defective brickwork and joints in walls	20	11	—	11
Dilapidated and dangerous washhouses	7	10	—	10
Dirty washhouses	6	2	—	2
Defective floors	1	4	—	4
Defective ceilings	3	3	—	3
Defective wall plaster	4	—	—	—

Nature of defects or nuisances discovered during 1953	No. of defects found	No. of defects remedied by		Total No. of defects remedied
		informal action	formal action	
Defective boiler firegrates ...	8	13	—	13
Defective washing boilers and boiler brickwork ...	9	14	—	14
Defective or obstructed sink waste pipes ...	6	8	—	8
Insufficient water supply and burst service pipes ...	6	4	—	4
Defective water taps ...	1	1	—	1
Defective doors, casement and steps ...	8	12	—	12
Defective and dangerous walls	5	7	—	7
Defective window frames ...	24	23	—	23
Insanitary and defective sinks	10	10	—	10
Defective spouting ...	7	15	—	15
Insufficient washing facilities...	—	1	—	1
Accumulations ...	3	2	—	2

DRAINS AND WATER CLOSETS

Defective W.C. roofs ...	25	36	—	36
Defective and dangerous walls	5	14	—	14
Defective soil and ventilation pipes ...	1	2	—	2
Defective door, cases and steps	8	12	—	12
Defective flushing apparatus...	16	20	—	20
Defective W.C. pans and joints	18	25	—	25
Obstructed W.C.s and drains...	341	322	—	322
Defective or no seats ...	5	7	—	7
Burst service pipes ...	7	10	—	10
Insufficient drainage ...	21	43	—	43
Insufficient water supply ...	20	40	—	40
Insufficient W.C. accommo- dation ...	17	38	—	38
Defective drains ...	17	15	—	15
Broken inspection chambers and covers ...	—	3	—	3
Dilapidated W.C.s ...	2	2	—	2
Defective or no spouting ...	1	—	—	—
Defective pail closets ...	3	4	—	4
Defective floors ...	4	2	—	2
Dirty W.C.s ...	3	4	—	4

Nature of defects or nuisances discovered during 1953	No. of defects found	No. of defects remedied by		Total No. of defects remedied
		informal action	formal action	
FACTORIES				
Defective roofs, chimneys and walls	—	7	—	7
Dirty urinals	4	2	—	2
Defective and insufficient urinals	2	3	—	3
Insufficient W.C. accom- modation	5	8	—	8
Defective W.C. pans and joints	2	2	—	2
Defective or no inspection chambers and covers ...	1	—	—	—
Dirty walls of factories ...	2	2	—	2
Dirty water closets	58	15	—	15
Defective and dirty floors of W.C.s	1	—	—	—
Defective or no seats	4	2	—	2
Defective W.C. doors and fastenings	45	83	—	83
Insufficient light and ventila- tion in W.C.	19	13	—	13
Defective and insufficient drainage	8	9	—	9
Obstructed drains	3	3	—	3
Accumulations	1	1	—	1
Defective spouting	1	1	—	1
Doors to be made to open out wards or not marked “ Fire Exit ”	3	4	—	4
Insufficient “ Fire Exits ” ...	1	—	—	—
Defective dust extractors to quarry chipping plants	1	—	—	—
W.C.s not marked “ Males ” or “ Females ”	19	11	—	11
Insufficient water supply and burst service pipes ...	6	9	—	9
No intervening ventilated spaces	8	2	—	2
No washing facilities	8	2	—	2
Dust, smoke and grit nuisances	14	19	—	19
Insufficient screening to W.C.s	2	5	—	5

Nature of defects or nuisances discovered during 1953	No. of defects found	No. of defects remedied by		Total No. of defects remedied
		informal action	formal action	
Factories infested with MICE				
and RATS	2	9	—	9
Insanitary pail closets ...	7	—	—	—
PIGGERIES				
Filthy	3	8	—	8
Defective sump holes	1	1	—	1
Accumulations	1	1	—	1
Nuisance from sterilising boiler	1	1	—	1
BAKEHOUSES				
Dirty ceiling and walls ...	3	4	—	4
Insufficient W.C. accom- modation	1	—	—	—
Dirty storerooms	2	2	—	2
Insufficient drainge and water supply	2	—	—	—
Dirty floors	1	1	—	1
Accumulations	1	1	—	1
Dirty W.C.s	3	3	—	3
W.C.s not marked “ Wash Hands After Use ” ...	1	—	—	—
No soap or towels	1	—	—	—
Insufficient washing facilities...	1	—	—	—
STABLES AND ANIMALS KEPT				
Accumulation of manure ...	3	3	—	3
Nuisance from keeping animals	1	2	—	2
Dirty yard area and dirty fowl pens	6	8	—	8
Dirty stables	4	—	—	—
FOODSTORES				
Defective door and door casing	1	1	—	1
Defective and dirty floors ...	6	7	—	7
Dirty foodstores	43	33	—	33
Dirty W.C.s	4	4	—	4
Dirty storerooms	10	8	—	8
Defective or insufficient extraction hoods ...	1	1	—	1

Nature of defects or nuisances discovered during 1953	No. of defects found	No. of defects remedied by		Total No. of defects remedied
		informal action	formal action	
Accumulations	5	4	—	4
Defective spouting	1	1	—	1
Insufficient light and ventilation	1	1	—	1
Defective ceiling and wall plaster	14	6	—	6
Insufficient and defective drainage	2	—	—	—
Defective chopping blocks ...	1	1	—	1
Verminous foodstores (Rodents)	2	2	—	2
No receptacles for waste storage	1	1	—	1
Dirty utensils	—	1	—	1
Nuisance from burning refuse	1	2	—	2
Defective window frames and fastenings	4	4	—	4
Dirty staircases	1	1	—	1
Insufficient sink accom- modation	1	2	—	2
W.C.s not marked " Wash Hands After Use " ...	20	20	—	20
Defective roofs	1	1	—	1
Insufficient washing facilities...	3	3	—	3
Contravention of Food Bye Laws	1	1	—	1
Insufficient water supply and burst service pipes ...	1	—	—	—
Insufficient W.C. accom- modation	1	—	—	—
Defective yard paving	1	1	—	1
Defective W.C. pans and joints	1	1	—	1
No constant supply of hot water	4	5	—	5

CANTEENS, RESTAURANTS AND CAFES

Dirty walls and ceiling ...	14	11	—	11
Dirty kitchens	5	6	—	6
Dirty W.C.s	8	8	—	8
Dirty urinals	2	2	—	2
Defective wall and ceiling plaster	2	—	—	—

Nature of defects or nuisances discovered during 1953	No. of defects found	No. of defects remedied by		Total No. of defects remedied
		informal action	formal action	
No receptacles for storage of waste	3	5	—	5
Defective cooking apparatus and utensils	1	—	—	—
W.C.s not marked " Wash Hands After Use " ...	9	5	—	5
Dirty food storage rooms ...	8	8	—	8
Defective hot water supply ...	1	—	—	—
Verminous canteens (Rodents)	1	1	—	1
PETROLEUM STORES				
Defective ventilation pipes ...	1	1	—	1
Defective pumps and leaking hose pipes	3	4	—	4
No proper storage accom- modation	1	1	—	1
Broken inspection chamber covers	—	1	—	1
Defective electric apparatus ...	1	1	—	1
REFUSE TIPS				
Fires	—	1	—	1
Lack of notices re Danger of Fire	2	2	—	2
Tipping so as to cause a nuisance	1	1	—	1
SHOPS				
Defective staircases	1	1	—	1
Defective ceiling and wall plaster	2	1	—	1
Defective door and door cases	1	1	—	1
Dampness	1	—	—	—
No washing facilities	1	—	—	—
Dirty ceiling and walls of shop	—	1	—	1
Defective window frames ...	3	3	—	3
Depositing litter on streets ...	3	3	—	3
Insufficient drainage	—	1	—	1
Defective or no sinks	—	1	—	1

Nature of defects or nuisances discovered during 1953	No. of defects found	No. of defects remedied by		Total No. of defects remedied
		informal action	formal action	
LICENSED PREMISES				
Defective ceiling and wall plaster	—	1	—	1
Defective W.C. roofs	2	1	—	1
Defective W.C. walls	1	—	—	—
Defective W.C. seats	2	3	—	3
Dirty W.C.s	15	22	—	22
Inadequate screening to W.C.s	2	2	—	2
Insufficient W.C. accom- modation	3	3	—	3
Insufficient drainage	4	4	—	4
Defective drains	1	4	—	4
Dirty urinals	11	13	—	13
Accumulations	1	—	—	—
Defective and insufficient urinal accommodation .	1	1	—	1
External and internal painting	—	1	—	1
Insufficient water supply and washing facilities ...	5	5	—	5
Defective sink and sink waste pipes	—	2	—	2
Dirty public rooms	11	26	—	26
Defective floors of public rooms	1	1	—	1
Dirty cellars and defective cellar floors	6	6	—	6
Defective cellar doors ...	2	1	—	1
Defective and dirty yard areas	3	4	—	4
No hot water behind bar ...	1	1	—	1
W.C.s not marked “ Wash Hands After Use ” ...	1	1	—	1
Burst service pipes	1	1	—	1
W.C.s not marked “ Ladies ” and “ Gents.”	—	2	—	2
CELLULOSE STORES				
Inadequate storage rooms ...	1	—	—	—
SLAUGHTERHOUSES				
Dirty	1	1	—	1
Defective drainage	1	1	—	1

Nature of defects or nuisances discovered during 1953				No. of defects found	No. of defects remedied by informal. formal action action		Total No. of de cts remedied
Defective yard paving	...			1	1	—	1
PUBLIC MARKETS							
Dirty urinals	...	...	...	1	1	—	1
Contraventions under Food Bye Laws				4	—	—	—
Dirty W.C.s	...	...	...	1	1	—	1
PRIVATE SCHOOLS							
Insufficient means of escape in case of fire				—	2	—	2
SCHOOLS							
Infested with Mice				1	1	—	1
School Canteens infested with Mice				1	1	—	1
CINEMAS AND THEATRES							
No secondary means of lighting				2	1	—	1
No EXIT notices over doors				6	3	—	3
Doors not opening outwards				4	—	—	—
No Panic Bolt Notices				—	4	—	4
No Panic Bolts on Doors				—	2	—	2
Exit Notices not coloured							
GREEN				—	6	—	6
Insufficient Exits				—	1	—	1
PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION							
Removed to Hospital				1	1	—	1

B.—THE NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR 1953

(Distinguishing Statutory from Informal)

INFORMAL NOTICES on the books, 31st December, 1952	319
FORMAL NOTICES on the books, 31st December, 1952 ...	Nil
INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR 1953	638
INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR 1953 (Re Shops Act)	3
FORMAL NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR 1953	19
	<hr/> 979 <hr/>

C.—THE RESULT OF THE SERVICE OF SUCH NOTICES

INFORMAL NOTICES complied with in 1953 which were outstanding 31st December, 1952	206
INFORMAL NOTICES complied with in 1953 which were served during the year	500
INFORMAL NOTICES complied with in 1953, which were served during the year (re Shops Act)	3
FORMAL NOTICES complied with in 1953; which were outstanding 31st December, 1952	Nil
FORMAL NOTICES complied with in 1953, which were served during the year	5
	<hr/> 714 <hr/>
TOTAL NUMBER OF NOTICES on the books 31st December, 1953 (for analysis see below)	
FORMAL	14
INFORMAL	251
	<hr/> 265 <hr/>

COMPLAINTS

The total number of complaints received during the year is 716.

OUTWORKERS

During the year 19 lists have been received containing 50 names covering February and August.

There were 13 Reminder notices sent out to employers.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

	Premises (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c. line No. (7)
				Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
1.	Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	1	19	—	—	—	1
2.	Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	365	362	41	—	2
3.	Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	3	—	—	—	—	3
	TOTAL		384	362	41	—	

2. CASES WHERE DEFECTS WERE FOUND :

Particulars (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c. line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient	9	—	1	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	40	25	—	5	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	1	—	—	1	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	12	2	3	—	3	12
TOTALS	60	43	29	—	9	60

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work (1)	Section 110		Section 111	
	No. of out-workers in August list reqd. by Sect. 110 (1)(c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises (6)	Notices served (7)
Brass and Brass articles	2	—	—	—
Wearing apparel (making, etc., cleaning and washing)	3	2	—	—
Iron and steel cables and chains	13	11	1	1
Carding of buttons, etc.	6	—	—	—
Totals ...	24	13	1	1

VERMINOUS HOUSES

Inspections for tenancy allocation of Council houses ...	...	309
Found verminous and disinfested ...	...	1
	<i>Bugs.</i>	<i>Other causes.</i>
Other dwelling houses disinfested ...	3	18

HOUSING

1. Inspections of dwelling houses during the year 1953 :—
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 896
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 5,566
 - (2) and Inspections made under the Housing Acts ... 57
 - (3)
 - (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 690

2. Remedy of defects during the year without services of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officer	554
--	--------	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under the Housing Acts		
Demolition Orders served	... ..	19
Closing Orders served	... ..	1
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a) By Owners	... ..	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners		Nil

DEMOLITION ORDERS

Demolition Orders have been served on the following properties during 1953 :—

59, Rowley Village, Rowley Regis	Represented in 1952
33, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath	„ „
103, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath	„ „
70, Peartree Street, Old Hill	Represented in 1953
107, Powke Lane, Old Hill	„ „
108, Powke Lane, Old Hill	„ „
109, Powke Lane, Old Hill	„ „
110, Powke Lane, Old Hill	„ „
111, Powke Lane, Old Hill	„ „
45, Garratts Lane, Old Hill	„ „
29, Silverthorne Lane, Cradley Heath	„ „
30, Silverthorne Lane, Cradley Heath	„ „
8, Tipton Road, Tividale	„ „
12, Tipton Road, Tividale	„ „
13, Tipton Road, Tividale	„ „
14, Tipton Road, Tividale	„ „
57, Lower High Street, Cradley Heath	„ „
58, Lower High Street, Cradley Heath	„ „
16, Surfeit Hill, Cradley Heath	„ „

CLOSING ORDER MADE DURING 1953

14, Surfeit Hill, Cradley Heath.

REPRESENTATION OF INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

A total of 32 individual unfit houses were represented during the year, 19 demolition orders and one closing order were made as stated above. The remainder will be dealt with in January, 1954.

REPRESENTATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

70, Peartree Street, Old Hill.
107, Powke Lane, Old Hill.
108, Powke Lane, Old Hill.
109, Powke Lane, Old Hill.
110, Powke Lane, Old Hill.
111, Powke Lane, Old Hill.
45, Garratts Lane, Old Hill.
29, Silverthorne Lane, Cradley Heath
30, Silverthorne Lane, Cradley Heath
14, Surfeit Hill, Cradley Heath.
16, Surfeit Hill, Cradley Heath.
57, Lower High Street, Cradley Heath.
58, Lower High Street, Cradley Heath.
8, Tipton Road, Tividale.
12, Tipton Road, Tividale.
13, Tipton Road, Tividale.
14, Tipton Road, Tividale.
52, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath.
53, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath.
54, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath.
55, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath.
56, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath.
57, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath.
58, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath.
59, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath.
60, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath.
61, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath.
62, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath.
63, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath.
64, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath.
102, Beeches Road, Blackheath.
103, Beeches Road, Blackheath.

THE FOLLOWING HOUSES WERE DEMOLISHED
IN 1953

20 in Clearance Area (Pre War)

203 and 204, Throne Road, Rowley Regis.
 81 and 82, Peartree Street, Old Hill.
 2 and 3, Gawne Lane, Old Hill.
 6 and 7, Gawne Lane, Old Hill.
 8 and 9, Gawne Lane, Old Hill.
 10 and 11 Gawne Lane, Old Hill.
 43 and 44, King Street, Old Hill.
 132, 133, 134 and 135, Whiteheath.
 16 and 17, Shepherds Fold, Blackheath.

13 Individual Unfits

68, Peartree Street, Old Hill.
 70, Peartree Street, Old Hill.
 103, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.
 107, Powke Lane, Old Hill.
 8, Powke Lane, Old Hill.
 9, Powke Lane, Old Hill.
 10, Powke Lane, Old Hill.
 11, Powke Lane, Old Hill.
 134, Ross, Blackheath.
 138, Ross, Blackheath.
 139, Ross, Blackheath.
 29, Lawrence Lane, Old Hill.
 1, Hollis Bridge.

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES
 RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DEC., 1953
 PART A—CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936)

	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in the period		Number of persons displaced
	Unfit houses	Other houses	
(1) Land coloured "pink"	20	—	69
(2) Land coloured "grey"	—	—	—

PART B—HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS

	Number of	
	Houses	Persons displaced
DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS		
(1) Housing Act, 1936		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section II	13	52
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section II, and still in force	---	---
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	---	---
(2) Housing Act, 1949		
(a) Closing orders made under Section 3(1)		
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2)	--	---
(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.		
Closing Orders made under Sect. 10(1)	1	---

REPAIRS	Number of houses
Informal Action	
(4) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts ...	554
Action under Statutory Powers	
(5) Public Health Acts	
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by local authority in default of owners	Nil
(6) Housing Act, 1936	
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9 10, 11 and 16)	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by local authority in default of owners	Nil

SURVEY OF SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

During the year 35 additional W.C.s were provided to houses which had no separate accommodation. This makes a total of 349 additional W.C.s provided since 1945.

PROSECUTIONS

There were no legal proceedings taken during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

ICE-CREAM PREMISES

For sale, Storage and manufacture	...	...	...	10
For sale and storage only	...	...	...	128
Total	...	...	...	138

LICENSED PREMISES

There are 122 in the Borough, and running hot water behind the bars is provided as follows :—

<i>Method</i>					<i>Number</i>
Hot water from fire back boilers	...	...	...	...	58
Hot water geysers	...	...	...	...	46
Immersion heaters	...	...	...	...	13
Independent boilers	...	...	...	...	5
Total	...	...	...	...	122

These premises are well maintained and every effort is made by the owners to establish hygienic conditions.

MILK SUPPLY

No principal Licences have been issued.

The following licences have been granted :—

Supplementary, Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	16
Supplementary, Sterilised	...	...	...	...	20
Dealers Licences, Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	20
Dealers Licences, Sterilised	...	...	...	...	166

The County Council, acting for and on behalf of the Borough, took 293 samples. Only one sample was adulterated.

Article	Genuine. Adulterated. Nature.		
Acid Drops
Almonds, Ground
Anised Cordial
Bacon, Smoked
Baking Powder
Beans in Tomato Sauce
Beef, Pressed
Bicarbonate of Soda
Brisling in Olive Oil

Article					Genuine.	Adulterated.	Nature.
Brisling in Tomato	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Burgundy	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Butter	...	...	...	...	2	—	—
Butter Drops, Super	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Caramels, Milk	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Cayenne, Ground	...	...	...	...	—	1	Consists mainly of exhausted Cayenne Pepper
Cheese	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Cheese, Edam	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Cheese, Gouda	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Cheese, Processed	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Chilva Elixir	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Cinnamon, Ground	...	...	...	...	2	—	—
Chocolate, Buttered	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Chocolate, Creamy Milk	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Chocolate Tea Cakes	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Codeine, Compound Tablets of, B.P.	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Coffee, Ground	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Coffee and Chicory Essence, Sweetened	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Cornflour	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Corned Beef with Cereal	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Crab Meat, Dressed	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Custard Powder	...	...	...	...	2	—	—
Dandelion and Burdock	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Dripping, Beef	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Egg, Dried	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Eucalyptus Oil, B.P.	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Fat, Cooking	...	...	...	...	2	—	—
Fat, Cooking, Compound	...	...	...	...	2	—	—
Fat, White	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Flour	...	...	...	...	2	—	—
Flour, Plain, Pastry	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Flour, Self Raising	...	...	...	...	4	—	—
Flour, Soya	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Gees Linctus, B.P.C.	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Ginger, Ground	...	...	...	...	2	—	—
Ginger, Root	...	...	...	...	1	—	—

Article	Genuine.	Adulterated.	Nature.
Glaubers Salts, B.P.	1	—	—
Glucose	1	—	—
Glucose, D.	2	—	—
Golden Raising Powder	1	—	—
Grenadine	1	—	—
Ice Cream	6	—	—
Ice Cream with Wafers	1	—	—
Jam, Apricot, F.F.S.	1	—	—
Jam, Strawberry	1	—	—
Lard	1	—	—
Lemon Curd	2	—	—
Lemonade Crystals	1	—	—
Lemonade Powder	1	—	—
Lime Juice Cordial	1	—	—
Liquid Fruit Pectin	1	—	—
Liquorice and Cream Allsorts	1	—	—
Liver, Braised Beef	1	—	—
Mace, Ground	1	—	—
Marmalade, F.F.S.	1	—	—
Marmalade, Ginger, F.F.S.	1	—	—
Meat, Pork Luncheon	1	—	—
Milk, Channel Island, all grades	5	—	—
Milk, Channel Island	6	—	—
Milk, Pasteurised	52	—	—
Milk, T.T. Pasteurised	42	—	—
Milk, T.T. Pasteurised, Channel Island	2	—	—
Milk, T.T. Channel Island	1	—	—
Milk, Sterilised	52	—	—
Milk, Malted	2	—	—
Mincemeat	2	—	—
Mint Caramels	1	—	—
Morfat, 20	1	—	—
Mustard	1	—	—
Mutton, Stewed with Gravy	1	—	—
Paste, Meat, Veal and Ham	1	—	—
Peel, Cut, Mixed	1	—	—
Pepper, Black	1	—	—
Pepper, White	3	—	—
Pilchards, Cornish, in Tomato Sauce	1	—	—
Pudding, Beef Steak	1	—	—
Rice, Ground	1	—	—
Rum	1	—	—
Sausage, Beef with preservative	1	—	—

Article				Genuine	Adulterated	Nature
Sausage, Fancy Pork	...	...	...	1	—	—
Sausage, Pork, containing preservative	...	...	...	2	—	—
Sausage, Tomato Pork, containing preservative	...	...	...	1	—	—
Sherry, British	...	...	...	1	—	—
Spearmint Crush	...	...	...	1	—	—
Spice, Mixed	...	...	...	1	—	—
Spice, Mixed, pudding	...	...	...	1	—	—
Sponge Mixture, sweetened	...	...	...	1	—	—
Sponge Mixture, sweetened, Chocolate	...	...	...	1	—	—
Stout, Nourishing	...	...	...	1	—	—
Strawberries	...	...	...	1	—	—
Suet, Shredded Beef	...	...	...	1	—	—
Sugar, Icing	...	...	...	1	—	—
Sugar, mixture	...	...	...	1	—	—
Surgical Spirit, B.P.C. No. 3	...	...	...	1	—	—
Surfeit Water	...	...	...	1	—	—
Sweetened Cake Flour	...	...	...	1	—	—
Tea	...	...	...	1	—	—
Vinegar, Pasteurised, Malt	...	...	...	1	—	—
Whisky	...	...	...	3	—	—
Wine, British Cocktail	...	...	...	1	—	—
Wine, British Ruby	...	...	...	1	—	—
Wine, Ginger	...	...	...	1	—	—
Wine, Ginger (Non-Alcoholic)	...	...	...	1	—	—
Wine, Tonic	...	...	...	1	—	—

The County Medical Officer has kindly supplied the following particulars of the examination of milk samples taken during the year :—

Bacteriological Tests.

				<i>Satisfactory.</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory.</i>
Tuberculin Tested	Pasteurised	34	—
Pasteurised	61	1
Sterilised	24	—

Biological Tests.

Pasteurised	8	—
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MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are 16 slaughterhouses licensed in the district. One is used for the Government slaughter of pigs and is in constant use. The remainder are used for occasional killing of cottagers' pigs. 5,362 animals slaughtered in the Borough have been inspected.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	5,362
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	5,362
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis:—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	577
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	10.8
<i>Tuberculosis only:—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	32
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	0.6

MEAT AND FOODS CONDEMNED

					<i>lbs.</i>
Pigs' carcasses	...	...	...	...	341 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ heads	...	...	...	...	361
„ frys	...	...	...	...	228
„ lungs	...	...	...	...	842 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ livers	...	...	...	...	31 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ hearts	...	...	...	...	15 $\frac{1}{4}$
„ intestines	...	...	...	...	34
„ mesenteries	...	...	...	...	2
„ spleens	...	...	...	...	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tinned meat	...	...	...	...	1,722 $\frac{1}{4}$
„ milk	...	...	...	...	567 $\frac{3}{4}$
„ fruit	...	...	...	...	2,140 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ fish	...	...	...	...	95
„ vegetables	...	...	...	...	433 $\frac{3}{4}$
„ soup	...	...	...	...	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ jam	...	...	...	...	10
„ sauce	...	...	...	...	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
Jars of fruit	...	...	...	...	53 $\frac{3}{4}$
Boxes of fruit	...	...	...	...	660 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ „ cheese	...	...	...	...	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Packets of egg powder	...	...	...	...	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
„ „ cereals	...	...	...	...	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ „ suet	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ flour	...	...	...	...	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ „ blanc mange powder	...	...	...	...	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Meat	...	...	...	...	41
Apricots	...	...	...	...	38
Cheese	...	...	...	...	4
Rice	...	...	...	...	21
Raisins	...	...	...	...	15
Sweets	...	...	...	...	42

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS. There has been no outbreaks during the year and no complaints of food have been received. Every place where food is prepared, stored or sold has been under constant supervision. "Code of Practice" notices are exhibited, "Wash Hands After Use" are fixed in all W.C.s and all food stores without exception have notices relating to the exclusion of dogs. Addresses and talks to various organisations have been given on Food Hygiene and allied Public Health subjects.

UNLOADING OF COAL ON FOOTPATHS AND PAVEMENTS. Unfortunately little progress has been made to prevent this nuisance as obviously dust is created into the atmosphere which could of course be prevented.

SHOPS ACT. There have been no prosecutions for opening after hours. Evening and Sunday inspections and supervisions have been carried out continuously.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM. 134 licences were granted. These have a storage capacity of 94,560 gallons. Particular attention has been paid to the suitability of the premises.

CARBIDE LICENCES. Seven licences have been granted.

FIRE ESCAPE CERTIFICATES. Eight certificates have been granted during the year.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951. Number of Registered Premises : 3. Total number of Informal samples taken : 9.

Details :

New cotton felt	...	...	2 samples
Woollen felt	...	...	1 sample
Coir Fibre Pad	...	...	1 sample
Loose Hair	...	...	1 sample
Washed Rag Flock	...	...	2 samples
Unused Jute Wadding	...	...	1 sample
Hair and Fibre Mixture	...	...	1 sample
			<hr/>
			9
			<hr/>

One sample was unsatisfactory and the consignment was returned to the suppliers at their request.

PET ANIMALS ACT. Eight inspections were made, and seven premises were registered. There are no large stores in the district.

MARINE STORE DEALERS. There are ten premises on the register.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. Two soot deposit guages and two sulphur dioxide installations are fixed in the Blackheath and Old Hill areas. The reports are sent to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, monthly.

Some little progress has been made. Four Smoke Eliminator Doors designed by the Department of Scientific Research have been fitted to horizontal boiler furnace doors and much improvement has been noticed. The Ministry of Fuel and Power have on several occasions sent expert stokers to train employees on the spot and this has been very helpful. One firm are experimenting with an underfeed stoker for a Kiln and at the end of the year a pair of cupolas were being fitted by another firm with grit arresters.

A local brick works has given rise to much concern. The steam raising plant, reminiscent of the Victorian era, with open egg shaped boilers, is very unsatisfactory. Instruction on firing has been given and some slight improvement has been noticed.

The quarry dust nuisance still exists to a more or less degree. This is partly due to overloading of the plants in operation, but much more can be done when materials and labour are more easily available to further reduce the nuisance.

THE PUBLIC MORTUARY. 37 bodies were admitted and port mortems were made.

DISINFECTIONS. 25 articles of clothing have been disinfected.

SCABIES. There has been no case of scabies treated during the year, but facilities are available if needed.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 685 cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1953 as compared with 582 in 1952. The following table shows the actual number of cases of the various types of diseases which were notified during the year together with the number after correction. By reference to this table it will be seen that there was a marked increase in the number of cases of measles and a reduction in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever.

Disease	Number notified	Number after correction
Scarlet Fever	46	44
Whooping Cough	181	181
Poliomyelitis:—		
Paralytic	—	—
Non-Paralytic	1	—
Measles	452	452
Diphtheria	3	1
Pneumonia	2	2
Meningococcal Infection	1	1
Erysipelas	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—
Total	686	681

SCARLET FEVER. There were 46 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year (2 of which were not confirmed) as compared with 90 cases in 1952. 10 cases were removed to hospital, the remainder being treated at home. The disease was of a mild type and there were no deaths. Cases are only removed to hospital if they cannot be properly treated at home, or if there are reasons in the public interest why they should be isolated in hospital.

WHOOPING COUGH. There were 181 cases of whooping cough notified, 2 of which were removed to hospital, and there were no deaths.

POLIOMYELITIS. There were no cases of poliomyelitis in the district during the year. One case was notified as non-paralytic poliomyelitis and transferred to hospital, but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

MEASLES. There were 452 cases of measles notified during the year as compared with 287 cases in 1952, and all but 4 of these were treated at home. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA. There were 3 cases of diphtheria notified but only in 1 case was the diagnosis confirmed, the others proving to be cases of tonsilitis. There can be no doubt that this low incidence is the result of the vigorous immunisation that has been carried out during the past years. No deaths occurred during the year.

The following table shows the cases of diphtheria notified during the past 10 years, together with the number of deaths. I might add that no immunised child has died in Rowley Regis from this disease.

Year	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Number of cases notified	57	63	57	20	18	8	6	2	2	3
Number of cases died	6	2	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	—

The number of cases immunised during the year was as follows : Under school age 521, school age 243. In addition, 17 children under school age and 470 children of school age received reinforcing or booster injections. Diphtheria immunisation is now the function of the County Council and is either carried out by their Medical Officers or by arrangements with the general practitioners, and I am indebted to Dr. W. A. McLennan, Area Medical Officer, for supplying me with these figures.

TUBERCULOSIS. There were 47 notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year as compared with 37 and 4 during 1952. There were 6 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (25 in 1952) and 2 deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (2 in 1952). The following table shows the new cases and deaths in the various age groups.

Age periods years	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
5—15	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	5	9	—	—	—	—	—	1
25—35	2	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45	4	4	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	4	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
Total	22	25	1	1	6	—	—	2

Home visiting of these cases is carried out by the County Council Health Visitors and copies of their reports are supplied to me.

Information as to any sanitary defect or overcrowding is contained in these reports, which enables us to take any necessary action to abate them. Cases of overcrowding are reported through to the Housing Department with a recommendation re rehousing, and wherever possible the Housing Committee have granted the tenancy of a council house. Close and effective co-operation exists between the Public Health Department and the Housing Department.

The following table shows the number of cases admitted to hospitals during the year.

Name of Institution	Number of admissions	Number of discharges
Prestwood Sanatorium ...	12	16
Groundslow Sanatorium ...	3	4
The Limes, Himley ...	5	—
Newcastle Isolation Hospital ...	3	2
St. Wulstan's Hospital, Malvern	5	2
Edge View, Kinver ...	1	1
The Cotswold Sanatorium, Grantham ...	5	—

